CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 17 - The Church Inspires the Crusades, AD 1096-1291

1. *The Setting for the Crusades*
    a. *Division between Eastern and Western Christianity, Islamic Conquest of locations where Christianity began, and fall of the Eastern Church to this conquest; the rise of the Turks - new Muslim conquerors*
    b. *When Constantinople was threatened and Patriarch Michael Cerularius called upon the West for help, Gregory VII have had a brilliant idea to accomplish – 1) he might be able to save the Eastern Church from the Muslims; 2) heal the grievous wound of the schism by reuniting the Eastern and Western churches; 3) establish the universal, world-wide rule of the papacy*
    c. *Gregory was the first man to conceive of a **crusade**, or "war of the cross."*
2. *The Turks Are Hostile Toward the Pilgrims*
    a. *There was widespread regard to relics and holy places to visit and pray (pilgrimage)*
    b. *Seljuk Turks took the Holy Land away, harassed Christians and in 1065 massacred 3,000*
3. *Pope Urban II Initiates the Crusades*
    a. *Urban II ignites the people to take up arms to reclaim the Holy Land called crusades*
    b. *The Latin word for "cross" is crux. That is why the undertaking was called a "crusade," and the participants "crusaders." The Crusades were military expeditions engaged in by the Christians of western Europe with the purpose of wresting the Holy Land and its sacred places from the hands of the Muslims.*
4. *The Immediate Results of the Crusades*
    a. *The first Crusade, which got under way in 1096, regained Jerusalem*
    b. *the second in 1147, were launched in order to give aid to the shaky and threatened Kingdom of Jerusalem*
    c. *In 1187 Jerusalem was captured by Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, and the third Crusade was formed by Richard I of England, Philip of France, and the emperor Frederick Barbarossa. Barbarossa drowned, Philip returned to France, and Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) gained only a treaty with Saladin that Christians could visit the Holy Sepulcher*
    d. *Most historians count eight Crusades and a tragic Children's Crusade over a period of two hundred years, none to accomplish its purpose, that it became more difficult for the popes to whip up enthusiasm for such movements, and middle of the 1200's the crusades faded; It was not until the WW I that the English took Palestine away from the Turks*
5. *The Motives of the Crusades*
    a. *The Crusades were unquestionably an expression of religious fervor, both on the part of the pope and on the part of the people. They were also an example of a perverted view of religion*
    b. *The crusader followed the lead of the Church which asked for the conquest of the Holy Land. He did not ask the question, "Is such an activity a part of my service to God?" Few, if any, asked such a question, since the common people at this time were sadly lacking in education. So we admire the crusader for his zeal but not for his deep religious insight. In religion, as well as in any other area, we are responsible not only for enthusiasm, but also for being right.*